**WDC Associate Conference Minister (KS-based)**

**Kathy Neufeld Dunn**

Some WDC congregations and pastors are dealing with heavy stuff—declining congregational numbers, sexual misconduct of church members, and the death of foundational leaders. Other congregations are seeing signs of new life--leaning into ministries of justice, seeing congregational revitalization, and discerning new leadership for a hopeful future. It’s my privilege to support and resource ministers and congregations in times of joy and pain. I also find fulfillment in discerning the “big picture” of faith formation and resourcing within our conference through the work of the Resource Commission whom I closely relate with as Associate Conference Minister (KS-based).

Below is a summary of some of my ministry emphases during the past year. Thank you for the privilege of serving you in these ways.

1. Resourcing Healthy, Missional Church

The registration numbers were too low for an onsite conference, the Year of Evangelism Testimony Weekend. Instead of wasting all the wonderful planning by workshop leaders and our keynote speaker, resources were put up on the WDC website for anyone to utilize. I helped the planning team to rethink how to share information in the 21st C.

Israel-Palestine Task Force premiered its own newsletter that went out to all WDC congregations to keep Israeli-Palestinian justice on WDC peoples’ hearts and minds.

Immigration Task Force financially supported two WDC people to attend the MCC South Texas Borderlands Tour which was requested by WDC churches.

I continue to offer Safe Sanctuaries and Circle of Grace trainings. In addition to these introductions to safety and prevention of abuse of children, youth and vulnerable adults, I spent significant time this year resourcing and supporting congregations and their pastors who were responding to sexual misconduct by those who are not credentialed ministers.

1. Sustaining Transformational Pastors

Chaplaincy Support: I hosted two chaplains’ gatherings for a meal, sharing, support, and prayer. I also connect one-on-one with chaplains as they have need.

Ministry Discernment and Support: It is a privilege to discern with those exploring a call to ministry, as well as those imagining the implications of retirement. I also listen to, offer care, and pray with Nebraska, Kansas, and Oklahoma pastors active in the joys and challenges of ongoing ministry.

Healthy Boundaries 101 (basic) and 201 (advanced) trainings: Byron Pellecer and I led one Healthy Boundaries 101 and 201 onsite each, as well as one Healthy Boundaries 101 training via Zoom which was also bilingual. We’re trying new ways to reach out to and resource our far-flung pastors across WDC.

1. Connect pastors and congregations with WDC and MC USA resources and mission

Resource Commission and I enthusiastically approved and supported opening a satellite WDC Resource Library housed at Iglesia Menonita Monte Horeb, Dallas, TX. These Spanish-language resources are being regularly utilized.

Search Committees – I have walked with three congregations in the midst of pastoral search processes this year. I regularly connect congregational leaders to MC USA resources and best practices during this vital, transitional time.

1. Coordinate Assembly Planning – I am again in the midst of Assembly planning and coordination for July 26-27, 2019. What a joy to have such a gifted, willing group of volunteers to help shape this conference gathering. May it be a blessing to many.